

United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/926
8 July 1991

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- + Third International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) team arrives in Baghdad to examine nuclear sites; begins inspection of items contained in new list presented to Secretary-General.
- + Iraqi Ambassador transmits to Secretary-General summary of report on imminent collapse of Iraqi health care system from New York health group, Medicine for Peace.
- + Secretary-General meets with Turkish President and Prime Minister during visit to Turkey.
- + United Nations Committee on Human Rights begins forty-second session in Geneva.
- + Saudi Arabia informs United Nations of Saudi prisoners remaining in Iraq.

The third inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has arrived in Baghdad to continue the inspection of Iraq's nuclear materials.

Composed of 38 experts, the team has begun to inspect sites and items contained in a list which was received late yesterday evening, 7 July, by the Secretary-General from the Foreign Minister of Iraq and copies of which were sent to the President of the Security Council and the Director-General of IAEA. According to the Spokesman for the Secretary-General, the information comprises details of an extensive nuclear programme, an important part of which had not been declared earlier.

An initial examination indicated the existence of three parallel programmes for uranium enrichment and related equipment and facilities. According to the list provided by Iraq, half a kilogram of slightly enriched material had been produced during testing.

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The new information provided by Iraqi Foreign Minister Ahmed Hussein follows findings of the IAEA nuclear inspection teams, high-level mission talks in Baghdad and contacts undertaken by the Secretary-General. The high-level mission sent to Baghdad last week had concluded that Iraqi cooperation fell short of what had been called for by the Security Council.

By the terms of the Security Council's cease-fire resolution 687, Iraq must allow the United Nations to inspect and eliminate or remove all of its weapons of mass destruction -- including long-range ballistic missiles, chemical and biological weapons, and nuclear-weapons-usable material.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar has received a summary of a report on the imminent collapse of the Iraqi health care system from Medicine for Health. The New York-based medical delegation of academic physicians who have just returned from Iraq, has called for the modification of the international trade embargo to allow the Iraqi Ministry of Health to obtain desperately needed medicine and medical supplies.

The report, which was transmitted in a letter dated 3 July to the Secretary-General by Iraqi Ambassador Abdul Amir Al-Anbari, said that the Gulf war had resulted in epidemic levels of childhood diseases which could not be treated due to lack of medical supplies and medicines; and it stated that the single most critical health-care problem in Iraq was the high incidence of severe malnutrition and chronic diarrhoea in children under five years old.

According to the report, which was released on 27 June, the outbreak of infectious diseases such as typhoid, hepatitis, meningitis, cholera and polio, resulting from the destruction of the sanitation system, had also worsened during the past two months. The report said there were critical shortages of vital medicines including antibiotics, vaccines, and infant formulas to treat the children due to the imposition of the international sanctions.

Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, who arrived in Istanbul, Turkey, last Saturday, has met with high-level Turkish officials and is slated to receive an honorary degree from Istanbul University on Tuesday, 9 July.

The Secretary-General met today with vacationing Turkish President, Turgut Ozal, at his summer residence at Marmaris, for talks lasting over an hour. According to the United Nations Spokesman accompanying the Secretary-General, the two discussed the situation between Iraq and Kuwait and its aftermath; Yugoslavia; Western Sahara and Cyprus.

On the question of Cyprus, President Ozal and the Secretary-General coincided in their view that an international gathering should be preceded by careful preparations, and to that effect, Oscar Camillon, Special Representative of the Secretary-General to Cyprus, will pursue contacts in the region before the end of the month.

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At a luncheon yesterday, 7 July, Mr. Perez de Cuellar met with Turkish Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz for a discussion covering the situation in the Middle East, including the deployment of United Nations security guards in Iraq, the economic consequences of the Gulf crisis; and Cyprus. Turkish Foreign Minister Safa Giray also attended the luncheon.

The Secretary-General is expected to leave Istanbul for France tomorrow following the presentation ceremony at Istanbul University.

The United Nations Human Rights Committee opened a new session in Geneva today. During the next 18 days, the body of experts will examine reports prepared by the Sudan, Morocco, Madagascar, Jordan and Iraq on how they have been following up the obligations set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

The Committee will also examine communications from individuals claiming that some of their rights under the Covenant have been violated and that they have exhausted all domestic legal remedies.

During this session the Committee will adopt its annual report to the General Assembly through the Economic and Social Council.

The 53-article Covenant which established the Committee is intended to safeguard such rights as the rights to self-determination, to life, to liberty and security of person, and to freedom of thought, conscience and religion. It prohibits arbitrary deprivation of life; torture, cruel or degrading treatment or punishment; slavery and forced labour; war propaganda and advocacy of racial or religious hatred.

Saudi Arabia has informed the United Nations that it has confirmed reports from previously released prisoners and Iraqi refugees that there are at least 15 Saudi Arabians in Iraq, who have not yet been repatriated.

In a letter to the Secretary-General dated 2 July, Saudi Arabian Ambassador Samir S. Shihabi said that Iraq had not complied with all the provisions of Security Council resolution 687, specifically section G which concerns the repatriation of all Kuwaitis and third country nationals, including Saudi Arabian nationals.

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